377. Thiru Arooran
378. Thirumandakudi
379. Cauvery
380. Nellikuppam
381. Villupuram
382. Ambika
383. Ponni
384. Sakthi
385. Shivganga
386. Bannari-Amman
387. Dharam
388. Pollur
389. Rajshree
390. Sethiathope
391. Cheyyap
392. Alapuram
393. Palayaseevaram
394. Mannam
395. Chittur
396. Tiruvalla
397. Aska
398. Bargarh
399. Dhenkanal
400. Nayagarh
401. Badamba
402. Dharamgarh
403. Ahmedpur
404. Plassey
405. Dimapur
406. Pondicherry
407. New Horizon
408. Tiska

Issue of ration-cards to people below poverty line

1120. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined at length the matter regarding issuing ration-cards to all persons whose income is below cut off level; and

(b) what new steps are being taken to strengthen the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997 the States/Union Territories have been asked to identify the families below poverty line (BPL) and issue special cards to them. To work out the number of BPL families the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission based on the methodology of "Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor" under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala have been adopted. For the identification of BPL families the thrust is to include only the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans creaftsmen such as potters, tappers, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters etc. in rural areas, and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers and hand-cart puillers. Fruit and flower sellers on the pavement etc. in urban areas.

Realisation of levy rice target by F.C.I.

1121. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India are not realising levy rice target, as reported in a section of the press recently.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the target fixed for this purpose and the step taken to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The collection of levy rice under the levy scheme depends on the quantity of paddy purchased by the millers. Hence no targets are fixed for procurement of levy rice.

A quantity of 46.46 lakh tonnes of levy rice has been procured for Central Pool upto 1.3.1999 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 1998-99, as compared to 56.33 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year. Levy collection in Punjab and Haryana was less due to exemption from levy granted to these